(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार का विचार विशेष रूप से सेवारत/सेवानिवृत्त रक्षा कर्मियों हेतु ऐसे स्थानों पर अस्पताल खोलने का है और जहां अस्पताल पर्याप्त संख्या में न हों; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव): (क) से (ग) जहां कहीं मिलिटरी अस्पताल उपलब्ध हैं उनमें भूतपूर्व सैनिकों को बाह्य रोगी/अंतरंग रोगी के रूप में उपचार की सुविधा प्रदान की जाती है। जिन मिलिटरी अस्पतालों में गंभीर बीमारियों, जैसे कि हृदय-उपचार, कैंसर, गुर्दा प्रत्यारोपण और घुटने के जोड़ बदलने के उपचार की सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं है वहां पर भूतपूर्व सैनिकों को सशस्त्र सेनाओं की सामूहिक बीमा योजनाओं के अंतर्गत सिविल अस्पतालों में उपचार करवाने की सुविधा प्रदान की जाती है। उन्हें कल्याणकारी निधियों से भी वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध करवाई जाती है। जैसाकि लगभग सभी राज्यों में मिलिटरी अस्पताल उपलब्ध हैं इसलिए भूतपूर्व सैनिकों के लिए विशेष रूप से कोई अस्पताल खोलने की कोई योजना नहीं है।

Converting prime Defence land for other purpose

36. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prime defence land meant exclusively for defence use has been allotted/converted for use other than defence needs in violation of the established procedure and practice;

(b) if so, the area of defence land converted for use other than defence purposes; the purpose for which the defence land has been allotted/converted; and

(c) the complusions under which conversion of the prime defence land was permitted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Any request for allotment of defence land for use other than defence purposes is considered and decided on merits of the case keeping in view the policy laid down by the Government. However, certain instances of use of defence land for other than strictly defence purposes like, for setting up of welfare centres, hostels, schools, shopping complexes etc. have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) No such permission has been given by Government which is violative of existing guidelines and rules.

Navy Project off Karnataka Coast

37. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a contract worth over a thousand crores of rupees for a Navy Project off the Karnataka coast has been stalled in order to favour a South Korean firm 'Hyunda' despite the fact that the firm was disqualfied by the Navy's Project Management Board and strong opposition from the defence forces thereby putting the country to a loss of over rupees two crores every month due to costs escalation; and

(b) if so, what are the compulsions in favouring a dis-qualified firm while ignoring the opposition by the defence force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Navy demands immediate replacement for INS Vikrant

38. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy has demanded immediate replacement for the decommissioned Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant;

(b) whether Government have seen reports that China has build two naval

bases for Myanmar in the vicnity of India; and

(c) whether Government will give serious consideration to acquisition of an aircraft carrier, a particulary in view of the increased Chinese interest in the seas around India and new naval acquisitions by Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) There is a proposal for purchase of an aircraft carrier as a replacement for INS Vikrant which was decommissioned on 31st January, 1997.

(b) The Government is aware that the Chinese have been supporting the Myanmar Armed Forces in the form of Defence supplies, training, maintenance and upgradation of bases.

(c) A number of steps have been taken as counter-measures to the emerging threat scenario as also to catch up with the force levels. In fact, a two pronged approach has been adopted-first to resort to import to meet the immediate requirements, and second to take recourse to indigenous construction for meeting the long term requirements. All developing having a bearing on the security of the country and its assets are kept under constant observation by Government and appropriate counter-measures are initiated from time to time, to maintain defence preparedness.

Modernisation of Armed Forces

39. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casualties both military and civilian, suffered by the Indian and Pakistan sides during the exchange of fire across the Line of Control during September-October, 1997;

(b) whether Government would accelerate the process of modernisation of the Armed Forces in view of the constant Pakistani threat and the US and UK tilt in favour of Pakistan on Kashmir as also the active support of China to Pakistan in her nuclear and missile development; and

(c) if so, the action begin taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The details of Indian killed (k)/ wounded(w) due to exchange of fire across Indo-Pak LOC are as follows:

Army		BSF		Civilians	
k	w	k	w	k	w
4	29	—	1	23	28

No authentic information can be furnished on casualties to Pakistani troops/civilians. The figures with us are, at best, estimates based on guess work.

(b) and (c) All developments having bearing on India's national security are monitored and necessary measures are taken from time to time to maintain appropriate defenced preparedness to frustrate attempts of misadventure on the part of our adversaries. Within the available resources, state-of-the-art weapons systems and equipment are provided to the Armed Forces to meet perceptible threats from our adversaries.

पाकिस्तानी सैनिकों द्वारा सीमा पार से की जाने वाली गोलाबारी

40. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1997 के दौरान पाकिस्तानी सेना द्वारा कब-कब भारतीय सीमा का उल्लंघन करते हुए गोलाबारी की गई और इसमें कितने भारतीय नागरिक और सैनिक मारे गए;

(ख) सरकार द्वारा पाकिस्तान की ओर से की जाने वाली भड़काऊ कार्यवाहियों तथा भविष्य में पाकिस्तान को ऐसी कार्यवाही करने से रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं; और